



Dark-Rumped Petrel at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

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GENERAL NOTES

Dark-rumped Petrel at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.—On the morning of 12 November 1977, an adult Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis*) was found at 1,220 m elevation on the north rim of Kilauea Crater, island of Hawaii. This rare and endangered species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1974) was once abundant on all main islands, but Munro (1944) believed native Hawaiian people, mongooses, rats, and feral cats were responsible for its drastic reduction in numbers. Today the species is found only in small colonies high on the barren volcanic slopes of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, Hawaii (Banko *in* Berger, 1972), Haleakala, Maui (Larson, 1967), and possibly Lanai (Hirai, 1978).

The petrel had apparently struck the Volcano House Hotel some time during the night because it had blood on the back feathers and could not fly. This was the second instance in the past two years that a Dark-rumped Petrel has been found at this location. In 1976, a park ranger found an immature bird at approximately the same location, but it could fly and was released that same day. Possibly the green lights that illuminate the surrounding area at night attracted these birds.

Larson (1967) found that most Dark-rumped Petrels in the Haleakala colony bred by early May and young left their burrows between 18 October and 2 November. Most recoveries have been of juveniles during the months of October and November (Henshaw, 1902; Baldwin and Hubbard, 1949; Berger, 1972), the period of postbreeding dispersal. In this respect the bird reported here was unusual because it was an adult.

Since there are few reported records of measurements on this species, the following data were taken: weight at capture 350 g, total length 379 mm, wing expanse 920 mm, wing length 282 mm, tail length 140 mm, culmen 30.2 mm, least bill depth 9.5 mm, bill depth at nostrils 14.5 mm, tarsus 40.6 mm, and middle toe (without nail) 38.3 mm. The tarsi and proximal half of the feet were pink-flesh color, whereas the dorsal portion of the outer toe and distal three-quarters of the web and tarsus were black much as Baldwin and Hubbard (1949) described. However, these authors reported the iris as yellow-brown; on the bird we found, it was a dark brown.

Permission was obtained from the endangered species coordinator for the Pacific Region to perform a cursory parasitic analysis. Peripheral blood smears were taken from toenail clips; all slides were negative for blood hematozoa. Fecal smears and sugar flotation were negative for parasite ova. Ectoparasites were collected and await identification.

During the four-day period of convalescence the petrel was maintained at the Cooperative National Park Resources Studies Unit at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It was fed squid twice daily and salt water was constantly available. The bird recovered quickly, and on the evening of 16 November was banded by a Fish and Wildlife Service agent and released at the site of initial capture.

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